

Remarks:

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of Applicant's claim for priority and certified priority document under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 5 and 7- 15 are presently pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled.

In item 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 - 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 3,862,402 to Igarashi et al ("IGARASHI"). In item 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 12 - 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 3,976,899 to Fanshawe ("FANSHAWE").

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections, as applied to the amended claims.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 recites, among other limitations:

"a mechanical energy storage device;

a deformable piezoelectric transducer for supplying an electrical voltage upon being bent by deformation work emitted by said mechanical energy storage device;"

Claim 1 has been amended and additionally recites, among other limitations:

"a contact surface separate from said mechanical energy storage device; and

said transducer being bendable along said contact surface, forming a bend in said transducer being defined by said contact surface." [emphasis added by Applicant]

The "contact surface" of amended claim 1 is described on page 7 of the instant application, lines 21 - 26, which states:

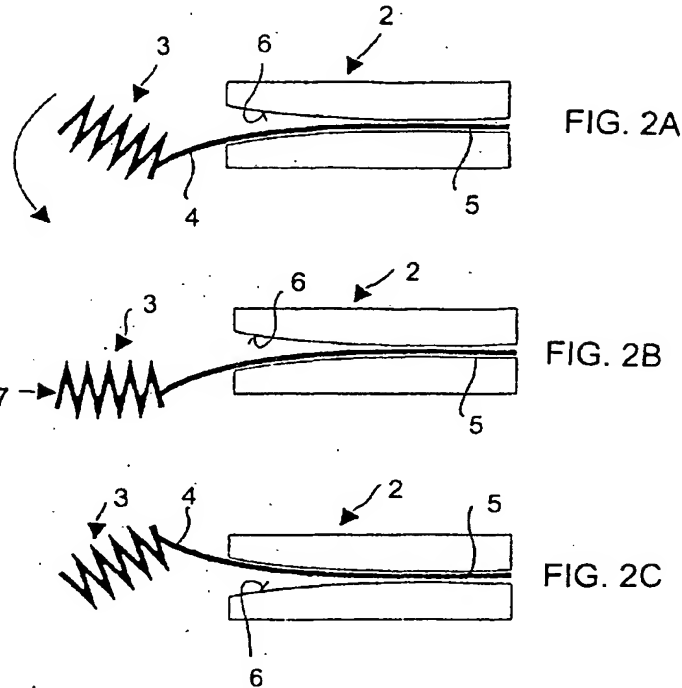
"The transducer 2 is designed such that it can be bent in both directions between two end positions, which are defined by mutually opposite contact surfaces 6. The contact surfaces 6 make it possible to achieve an optimum bending profile. The contact surfaces 6 may be provided on the apparatus which is used to fix the first rod end 5." [emphasis added by Applicant]

Additionally, page 8 of the instant application, lines 24 - 26, states:

"The two end positions for the bending transducer are governed by the contact surfaces 6, in the illustrated exemplary embodiment." [emphasis added by Applicant]

Hence, the use of the descriptive term "contact" for the surface along which the transducer bends. This bending

"along" the contact surface is shown more particularly in Figs. 2A - 2C of the instant application, which are reproduced herebelow.



Neither the IGARASHI reference, nor the FANSHAWE reference, cited in the Office Action, teach or suggest all the limitations of Applicants' amended claim 1, including Applicant's particularly claimed transducer that is bendable along a contact surface, forming a bend in said transducer being defined by said contact surface.

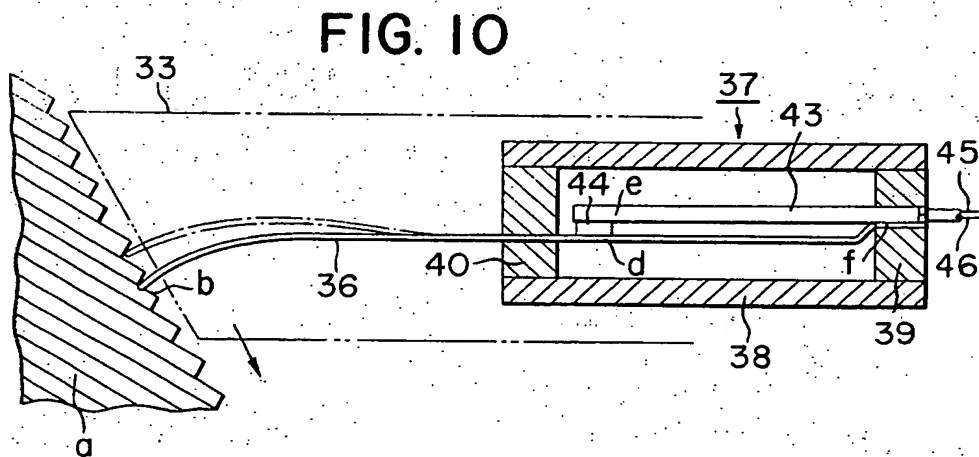
More particularly, the IGARASHI reference discloses a method and apparatus for counting sheets of paper. IGARASHI

discloses a probe 36, associated with a piezoelectric element 43, as described in column 4, lines 15 - 28, which states:

"A numerical reference 43 denotes a piezo electric element disposed within said pipe 38 in parallel with the probe 36 at a predetermined interval. The base end portion of the piezo element 43 is fixedly connected to the base end portion of the probe 36 by means of soldering or bonding so that both base end portions are supported in turn by the pipe 38 through the intermediate of the supporting rubber 39.

Further, the outer end portion of said piezo electric element 43 is, within the pipe 38, fixed to a portion of the probe 36 through a cushion 44, here of silicone rubber. The piezo electric element is here a ceramic bimorph."

The relationship between the probe 36 and transducer 43 of IGARASHI is shown more particularly in Fig. 10 of IGARASHI, reproduced herebelow.



As can be seen, IGARASHI fails to teach or suggest, among other limitations, Applicant's particularly claimed contact

surface and transducer that is bendable along a contact surface, of Applicants' amended claim 1. See also, col. 6 of IGARASHI, lines 3 - 54.

Additionally, the FANSHAWE reference additionally fails to teach or suggest, among other limitations, Applicant's particularly claimed contact surface and transducer that is bendable along a contact surface, forming a bend in said transducer being defined by said contact surface, of Applicants' amended claim 1.

The FANSHAWE reference discloses a mechanical-electrical transducer producing an electric signal upon depression of a spring, such as a pushbutton. In FANSHAWE, a piezoelectric element 8 is caused to bend between two end positions by flexure of a spring. However, the bending of the element 8 of FANSHAWE does not occur "along" a "contact surface" separate from the spring, as is required by Applicants' claims, and is not "defined by" a "contact surface", as additionally required by Applicant's amended claim 1.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed

to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

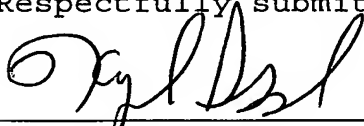
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 15 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 27, 2005

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